

# Vernonia School District 47J

Code: **IBB**  
Adopted: 5/14/87  
Orig. Code(s): IBB

## Academic Freedom

Academic freedom may be defined as the right of a qualified scholar to pursue the search for truth in its many forms and to make public his/her methods and findings. It is the right of a qualified teacher to encourage freedom of discussion and investigation of controversial questions in the classroom, to develop in his/her students a love of knowledge and a desire to search for truth. The teacher should keep in mind that academic freedom is not a political right guaranteed in the Constitution, but rather a necessary condition for the successful practice of the academic profession in a free society.

It is recognized that the application of the principle of academic freedom at the common school level involves many considerations. The teacher should take into account the relative maturity of the students and the need for guidance and help in studying the issues and arriving at balanced views.

No teacher shall advocate or teach any politicalism with the intent to indoctrinate any student with or inculcate a preference in the mind of any student for politicalism. This in no way is meant to prohibit teachers from teaching about politicalism, nor is it intended to prohibit the teaching of democracy. The teaching of respect for the flag of the United States and ideals and freedoms for which it stands is encouraged and demanded. In addition, continuous instruction in the manners and morals acceptable to the larger society shall be given in all grades.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.072](#)  
[ORS 332.107](#)  
[ORS 339.880](#)  
[ORS 339.885](#)

[OAR 581-021-0050](#)  
[OAR 581-021-0055](#)

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074 (2006).  
Westside Cmty. Bd. of Educ. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).  
Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).  
U.S. CONST. amend. I; U.S. CONST. amend. XIV.  
OR. CONST., art. I, § 8.